

America Leads In Morals—This Country Contrasted With Remainder of the World.

At the Auburndale Congregational church, on Thanksgiving, a union meeting of the Episcopal, Methodist and home church was addressed by the Rev. Francis B. Clark, "Father Endeavor," on "America's Place Among Nations in Manners and Morals," says the Boston Herald. He said:

I wish to compare the manners and morals of European nations, said he, as I have recently seen them, with the manners and morals of our own land, and especially desire to consider the reasons for the tremendous magnetic pull, almost like the attraction of gravitation on the planets in their courses, that America has upon the rest of the world.

The Teutonic and Gothic races certainly surpass the Anglo-Saxons in the matters of politeness. One notices it everywhere in public places. The conductor of the railway trains does not throw open the door like a cyclone, and shout at the top of his voice, "Tickets!" but in a mild and deferential way he approaches each passenger, touching his hat, begs you to please hand him your ticket, punches it as gently as he can, and hands it back to you, often with a little flourish, and a "Thank you, honorable sir." So you feel that you have conferred quite a favor upon him by giving up your bit of hardware.

The newsboy does not go swaggering through the train, slapping down cheap magazines or cheaper trashy novels in every passenger's lap, or perhaps shoving packages of candy right and left, but he approaches you modestly with his sheaf of papers or magazines, or waits for you to call him to your side.

In the German cars the first comers seem to regard those who afterward enter as their special guests, and every man in the same compartment will touch his hat to each one who enters, and, if the newcomer is a lady, will often rise and bow before her, as if she were an honored visitor. At a restaurant or hotel table the same polite customs often prevail, especially in purely German establishments.

In Sweden they have a still more pleasant custom in private homes; for each guest shakes hands with his host and hostess after the meal, and says, "Thank you for this good meal," or, if it is only a cold bite and a cup of coffee, they say, "Thank you." The peasants of the children of the family often kiss their father and mother, and say to them in their musical language, which sounds like a song, "Thanks for the good meal." The Slavs, too, as a race are wonderfully polite. The peasants with whom we traveled in the unspeakable Siberian railroad trains on the far side of Lake Baikal would spring to lift our heavy baggage when we were going out and would share with us their cups and wine and their bread when the restaurant stations were few and far between.

The Latin races have always boasted of their politeness, and "polite as a Frenchman" has passed into a proverb. But in my experience the black verb is not altogether justified. To be sure, there is a vivacious and punctilious etiquette about a well-bred Frenchman which is captivating to the uninitiated, and there is a certain stately politeness to the Spanish don that is impressive, but, as for me, give me the more genuine thing which I find in northern climes.

In Italy there is scarcely a pretense of politeness among the lower classes.

The supercilious hotel clerk is a peculiar unmannerly product of America and England, and I am sorry to say that he is most often met with in America. He is seldom found upon the continent of Europe. On the continent, and frequently in England, he is a young lady, with a melodious voice and a pleasant demeanor, who makes you feel that you are conferring and not receiving a favor by stopping at her hostelry.

I must say that, while the agreeable Englishman is the most courteous of men, the disagreeable Englishman is superlatively unpleasant. But, on the other hand, I have seen in many English homes such specimens of fine-grained, courteous manhood and such gracious, winsome womanhood, so thoughtful, considerate and kind, so unweary in seeking the comfort of their guests, so generous in providing for every want, that I have thanked God that I spoke the same tongue with them and had a common language.

To speak of American manners for a moment. In public places there is still much to be desired. At railway stations and on streetcars, in hotels and public halls, in the restaurants and the street, and even in the church itself, the independent spirit of free America is often more evident than its refinement. And yet I believe the heart politeness of our people is as generous and genuine as will be found in any land beneath the sun.

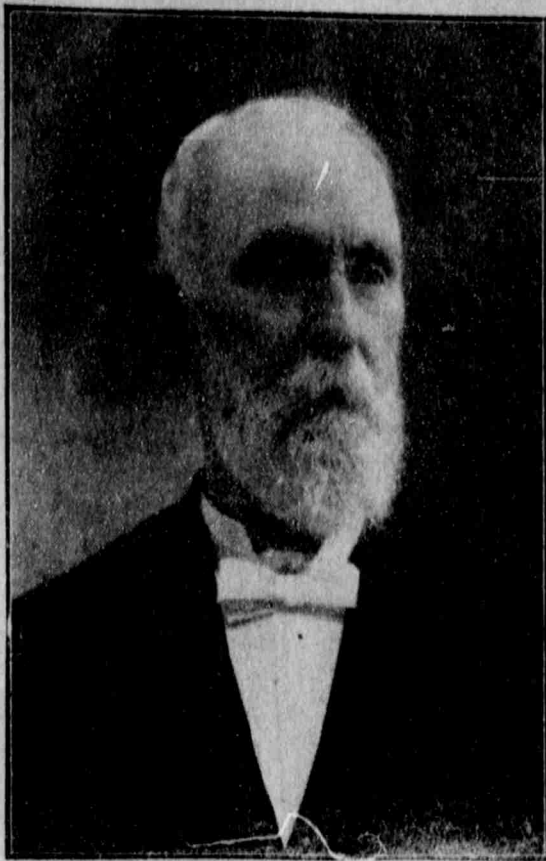
Whether or not America can take the very first rank in manners, she certainly need take no second place in morals. I can say there is no country where temperance sentiment is so strong, where womanhood is so revered, where outside of the stock exchanges, gambling is so frowned upon; no land where country towns and small communities, at least, in which the old town meeting prevails, have a political life that is purer or more unselfish. Certainly in the strength of its temperance sentiment America leads the world, and when I speak of America in these matters, I use the word in the large sense as embracing all the territory from the north pole to the Rio Grande.

A most refreshing change that an American finds on returning to his own land from a foreign sojourn is the absence of women behind and before the liquor bars. I suppose that in Great Britain nine-tenths of the strong liquor is served by bar maids, and a very considerable portion of it is drunk by women.

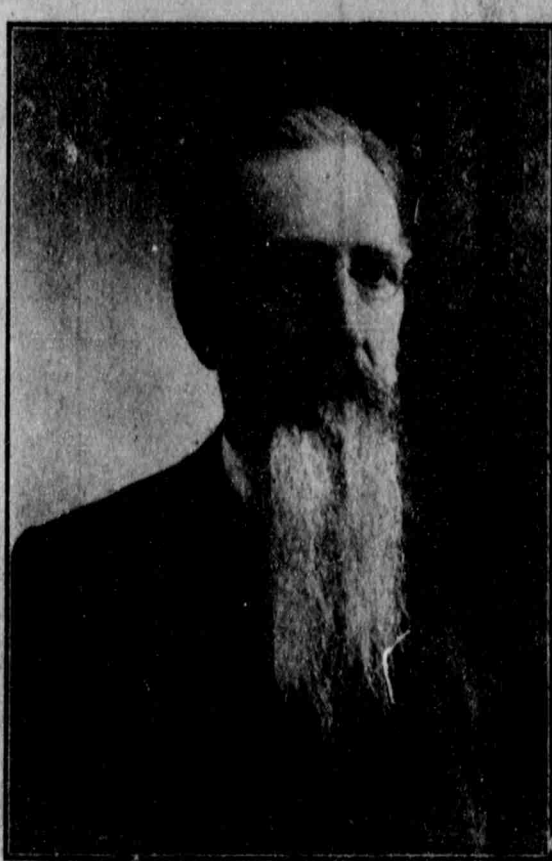
It must be acknowledged that the liquor problem is a much less serious one on the continent of Europe than in English-speaking lands on both sides of the sea. The drinks are as a rule much lighter.

Even Russia, which used to be considered the most drunken country in the world, has recently reformed in a notable way, and drinking at an open bar in St. Petersburg and many other large cities is almost unknown. The sale of vodka, the Russian substitute for whisky, is a government monopoly. The baleful habit of treating is unknown, and the amount of drunkenness, I am told, has been very largely diminished by the new regulations.

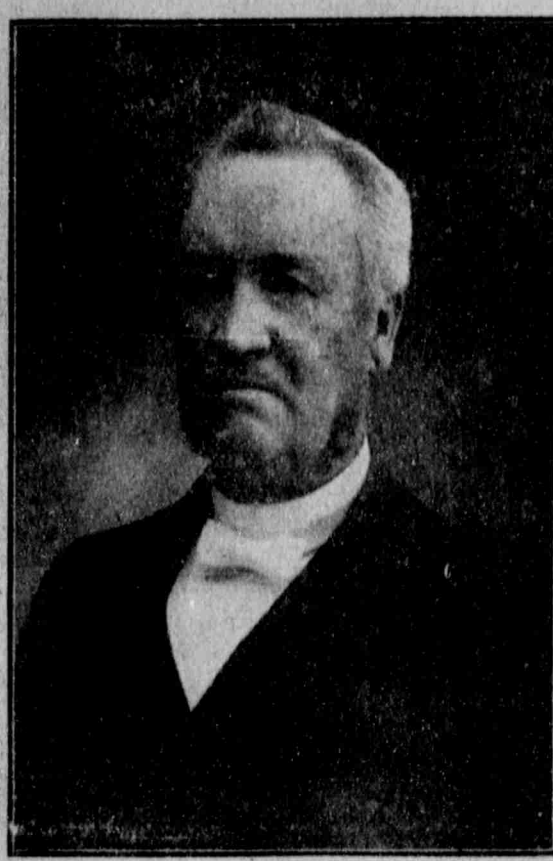
The Norwegian system of state regulation has its advantages and its disadvantages. It insures pure liquors, regulates the amount that may be drunk by



PRESIDENT JOHN R. WINDER.



PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.



PRESIDENT ANTHON H. LUND.



CHRISTMAS GREETING



To the Latter-day Saints Throughout the World.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN AND SISTERS:



HE present seems a fitting time for us to address a brief epistle to the Saints. It is nearly one thousand nine hundred and two years, according to received chronology, since our Lord and Savior came to earth to die that man might live. In a few days all Christendom will be ringing with the anthem first sung by the Angels who announced the mortal birth of the Son of God to the shepherds on the plains of Galilee: "Peace on Earth; Good will to Men." This is, and ever has been, the motto of the true Church of Christ, the high and holy end at which it aims; whatever may be said of that saying of the Savior, so much misunderstood, and so often used to justify strife: "Think not I come to bring peace, but a sword." While an inevitable result of the introduction of the Gospel among men in all ages has been division—a division between Christ and Belial, between good and evil, right and wrong—peace, nevertheless, and unity and love, in their broadest and best significance, are the spirit, purpose and ultimate achievement of all God's dealings with man. The Saints and servants of the Lord should be peace-makers and peace-promoters wherever they dwell and in whatsoever capacity they are called to minister. They should be worthy followers of the Prince of Peace, for whose reign of righteousness and brotherly love they are here to prepare the way.

This being true, it is scarcely needful for us to remind you that we as a people have great cause for thankfulness. The mere fact that men and women have been chosen of God as instruments for the carrying on of a work which is to usher in such a blessed condition, is enough to fill every heart with gratitude, with songs of praise and anthems of rejoicing. The Gospel has made us free, and has placed in our possession the means to make others free. Truth is liberty, and we have the truth. Let not this assurance, however, lull you to sleep. "Eternal vigilance is the price of safety." Because peace and prosperity, spiritual and temporal, are yours, do not allow yourselves to imagine that Christ and Belial are friends, or ever can be.

Notwithstanding the severe drouth in some parts of our State and the added losses through the grasshopper plague, the Saints generally have great causes to be thankful for their prosperity, and we exhort them to take advantage of these thrifty times, when harvests are abundant, business good, and money comparatively plenty, to pay their debts and free themselves from financial bondage. A word to the wise upon this point will be sufficient. Let the well-to-do remember that all are not equally prosperous, that the poor we have always with us, and that it is our duty to look after the needy, to care for the sick and sorrowing, and prevent as far as possible human suffering. Let creditors be merciful, let debtors be honest, and let all who have in plenty open their hearts and hands and give freely unto those who have not. Let poor, as well as rich, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The festive season, however, should not induce excesses. The Lord loves to see his people happy, but He also requires them to be temperate, moderate and wise in all things.

It is with gratitude that we note the growth and increase of the Church at home and abroad. Some persecution has been suffered of late, but it has only had the effect—the usual one—of accelerating the work, pushing it forward instead of backward. The spirit to improve their church buildings and erect new ones seems to be upon the people. Even in some of the missions the Saints have their own meeting houses, and the tendency is to build more. We commend this spirit, and rejoice in its results, but suggest to the brethren that it is not advisable to depend for funds for this purpose upon the Trustee-in-Trust. The Presidencies of Stakes, the Bishops and clerks throughout the Stakes of Zion are commended for the care and accuracy manifested in the keeping of their accounts, and the Saints in general for promptness and liberality in paying their tithes and offerings.

The interest that is manifested by the Saints in Temple work is also matter for congratulation. The plan of salvation embraces the redemption of the dead as well as of the living, and the ordinances of the Lord's house are being performed in all of the Temples that have been erected, with a zeal and loving spirit that are truly gratifying. We exhort our brethren and sisters to continue in well-doing, in searching for their genealogies, and in attending to the glorious work of vicarious ordinances which will bring joy and release to the spirits of the departed, who had not the opportunity of receiving in the flesh the fulness of the everlasting Gospel.

Whatever may be the cause, whether an influx of criminals from other points or lack of police force at home, the prevalence of outlawry in this once peaceful and orderly city is a matter of profound regret, and we earnestly hope for better things in the near future. The officers of the law should do all they possibly can to defend the citizens, their homes and property from violent and predatory hands; and the people one and all should uphold and encourage the guardians of the peace in the performance of their sworn duties; not spending too much time in criticism—none at all in harsh and unjust fault-finding, thus pulling down instead of sustaining their public servants, the official pillars of the general welfare.

May the peace that passeth understanding rest upon all the homes of Zion, and upon all her gathered and scattered children, wherever they are laboring for the realization of what the Angels anciently proclaimed, and what we now repeat as our sincere wish and greeting to the Church of Christ and to all the world: PEACE ON EARTH; GOOD WILL TO MAN."

Your Brethren,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,

First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Something to Learn, But Much to Teach—Address by the Rev. Clark of Boston.

anyone, eliminates the element of personal profit and furnishes with the profits many cheap and good restaurants, reading rooms, etc. But it puts the seal of respectability and government sanction upon the business, and does not diminish the consumption of liquor beyond a certain point, though it is vastly better than the American saloon system, with its treating, its carousing and its unspeakably bad political influence.

When we come to social evils, America has reason to be proud that the new world has advanced so far beyond the old world.

In many European capitals vice is not only winked at, but it is condoned as a necessary adjunct of modern civilization. In Vienna and many of the German cities the cafes are often dens of iniquity. In Great Britain the sentiment about these things is very much the same as in America, though undoubtedly London is more brazenly wicked than any city on the continent. There vice is driven upon the street. But in Britain, as in America, the heart of the people is not corrupt. Pure womanhood is revered, and an innuendo girl could not go from London. End to John O' Great's as she could travel from Portland, Me., to Portland, Ore., without being insulted.

Far otherwise is it in many continental cities. The twilight hour must see every decent woman housed if she has no escort, and even in broad daylight a girl walking alone is subject to the amatory insults of the gorgeous officer in gold lace, or the dude who has as little brains as the head of the cane he sucks.

It must be said, however, that continental cities are improving in decency. There is not by any means the same number of indecent pictures or suggestive articles staring one in the face from the shop windows that used to be seen a dozen or 20 years ago. While Europe has been improving, America has been retrograding, I fear. Our theater posters have been growing more broad and vulgar, and our penny dreadfuls more dreadfully unclean. There is no European watering place that would tolerate today such indecencies as I have seen in Niagara within a year, and unless the city fathers of that famous resort bestir themselves, they will have the unenviable reputation of governing the most vulgar town on earth.

To the shame of Christian civilization it must be said that, in the outward manifestation of decency, some heathen nations far surpass us. Many advertisements which we regard as entirely innocent shock the Chinese convert, and if a theater poster or suggestion of the nude art reaches the celestial empire, the average Chinaman regards it as not only extremely bad taste, but shockingly immoral.

In the matter of gambling, the third in the trio with intemperance and vice, it can be said without qualification that America is decidedly superior to many of her neighbors. Despite the inroads of the bookmaker, the race track is not so all-absorbing a thing as in England or Australia.

I do not forget the excited thousands that throng the college football matches in America, or the "rooters" that roost on the "bleachers" in the football season; but you do not find with us many who eat, drink and sleep for races and matches as in Great Britain; and our presidents and national leaders have never exhibited more interest in fast trotters than in the affairs of state.

As to the continent of Europe, the trail of lottery octopus and the gambling den is over it all. The lottery, which has been driven out even from our mail bags, is not only legalized, but used as a source of revenue, in many European capitals. The poorest are encouraged to risk their centimes on the chance of winning napoleons.

After seeking to point the contrast between the old world and the new, interesting questions arise. Why, after all, does the United States exert such a pull on the rest of the world? Why do emigrants flock to our shores by the ten thousand every week? Why, in the month of May last, were more than 22,000 registered as seeking a new home in the new world—a record-breaking emigration?

I do not pose as a thick and thin braggart about America and Americans. In keeping my eyes open in foreign lands it has not been difficult to discover that in some respects we are surpassed by other nations. We have not centered all the best and most beautiful in our empire between the seas, though some of us are inclined to think so. In manners, if not in morals, we have something to learn from our transatlantic neighbors, and in some countries of the old world the common people are as happy and prosperous as in our own land; yet America continues to be the lodestone of the nations, and by the hundred thousand other peoples seek our shores.

America, against the will of peoples and potentates, compels, by her own magnetic attraction, the adhesion of men from every land, who flock to our shores and very soon become sturdy and thoroughgoing American citizens.

The power which draws the earth to the sun and the moon to the earth seems to draw the east over to the west.

There is one adequate explanation, the drawing power is in our free institutions and the chance which America gives every boy to carve out his own future. And it is the chance to climb, after all, that the ambitious man wants; and this is the magnet that has drawn the aspiring and enterprising of all lands to our shores. Not the gold mines of California, or the wheat fields of Minnesota, or the factories of Massachusetts, constitute the real magnet, but the spirit of democracy that judges men on their merits, and gives the best chance to the best man.

In every old world country the low-born youth is at a disadvantage as compared with the high-born. In the freest of them all the accident of birth and station have their effect, and a benumbing effect, upon invention, initiative and enterprise. In America alone of all the nations of the world, unless it be the Switzer and (and even there traditions and ancient customs hinder progress to some extent), what a man may be is not determined largely by what his father was, and his grandfather before him. In America a man may plant his own family tree, and is more concerned with what his descendants shall be than what his ancestors were.

The motive to exertion and enterprise held out to the American boy. "You may be the president of the United States some day," is often derided, and elaborate calculations are sometimes made to show how many millions to one are the chances against any particular boy's being president of the United States. Yet after all, the idea underlying this thought is the one that has made America great.

It is the chance to rise that has brought the millions to our shores. It is the chance to rise that stimulates